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were supposed to refute the views of his party, whereas they were actually in agreement. He now defines that phenomenon, and enumerates the facts agreed upon. As a name for the phenomenon, Binet himself with Féré, proposed "systematic anæsthesia." To avoid confusion, however, he is willing to accept "unconscious perception" or "negative perception," terms certainly more fitting, in view of recent experiments, than "negative hallucination."

De l'amnésie rétroactive dans le sommeil provoqué. BERNHEIM. *Revue de l'hypnotisme*, Juillet, 1889.

Certain subjects on waking from the hypnotic trance, are without memory, not only of what has happened during that state, but of events immediately preceding it, and this may happen spontaneously with persons that have never before been hypnotized nor seen others hypnotized. A case of this kind is described by Bernheim. No explanation is offered, but the similarity to retroactive amnesia in fevers and alcoholic delirium is recalled.

Note sur l'enregistrement des excitations portées sur une région anesthésique du corps chez les hystériques. ALFRED BINET. *Compt. rend. de la Soc. de Biologie*, séance du 12 Jan., 1889.

The motor effects now reported are in the line of the curious optical effects secured by the same experimenter by the stimulation of anæsthetic areas on the bodies of hysterical patients (see abstract, *AMER. JOUR. PSY.* II., 324), and are equally suggestive with reference to the conscious unconsciousness of some hypnotic subjects. He finds that stimulation of an anæsthetic area is followed by a slight, unconscious muscular excitation, the effect of which is to be seen in myographic tracings taken on the muscle masses of the limbs, trunk and face. Stimulation of a sensitive area produces a less widely irradiated excitation in many subjects than stimulation of an anæsthetic area, and in other particulars also there are variations of result. The rhythm of stimulations is sometimes followed, and the duration and intensity of the stimulus is of effect on the trace, which make it seem probable that, in spite of the subject's unconsciousness, psycho-motor centers take part in the response.

Recherches sur les altérations de la conscience chez les hystériques. A. BINET. *Revue Philosophique*, Fév., 1889.

It is well known that the anæsthesias of hysteria are vastly different from those of organic lesions, and the researches of M. Binet make this yet more apparent. The tests were made out of sight of the patient, without previous suggestion or hypnotization, and his results are, he thinks, symptomatic of the disease. It appears that, while simple pricks and touches produce no reaction, stimuli with some meaning (a dynamometer placed in the hand, or a pencil in the position for writing), may provoke a characteristic response of adapted motion. In some subjects, the presence of all the kinæsthetic senses and that of pain can be demonstrated. Furthermore, this action is not independent of consciousness. The thoughts of the subject find expression (in the case of automatic writers) on the anæsthetic side, and the sensations of that side reach consciousness though not with their normal character, tactual sensations generally

calling up visual ideas. Binet is inclined to suspend judgement on the question of the conscious perception of these sensations by a second "personality," but argues from his experiments that this doubling of "personality" cannot arise in dissociation or splitting of the ideas into two independent groups, as some have contended. The elaboration of the responses and their connection with consciousness support the cortical theory of hysteria long taught by Charcot. Regrettable as it is that such important experiments must be conducted upon such uncertain subjects as hysterical patients, and that M. Binet is not over-skeptical in regard to the action of the magnet, his experiments do not fail of a very great interest.

Ueber Hypnotismus und Suggestion, sowie deren therapeutische Anwendung in der ärztlichen Praxis. FRANZ MÜLLER. Wien, 1889. Moritz Perles. pp. 20.

Believing that there is still a large number of physicians who are skeptical regarding the applications of hypnotism in medicine, Dr. Müller prepares for them an excellent common-sense statement of what is meant by suggestion and how it acts. He takes forcibly and throughout the position of the Nancy school and insists that the process is psychical in every phase. After citing the usual cases of the influence of mind over body, he reminds us that hypnotism is not a panacea, as some claim; it has its distinct limits, largely the same as the limits within which such factors as a cheerful mien, impressive and hopeful manner are effective. "The domain of the therapeutics of suggestion is occupied primarily by the hysterical complex of symptoms; secondly, paralyses, cramps, and neuralgias caused by psychic shock; thirdly, neurasthenic troubles and sleeplessness, and finally pains and neuralgias." A point noted in combatting the purely physical theory of hypnotization may be cited. Dr. Müller asks why, if as many claim a bright light produces hypnosis, do not ophthalmologists find amongst their numerous patients cases of spontaneous hypnotism when the ray of light from the ophthalmoscope is thrown upon the retina? The query is certainly in point, and argues that the light is efficient when its effect is expected.

J. J.

Ueber den Hypnotismus und seine Verwerthung in der Praxis. Dr. W. BRUGELMAN. Berlin, 1889. pp. 20.

This pamphlet is interesting as an additional endorsement from German soil of the therapeutic application of hypnotism. The position taken by Dr. Brugelman presents nothing peculiar. He regards hypnosis as closely affiliated with normal sleep, and as an important instrument in the hands of a competent physician for alleviating not all but an essential portion of human ills. The pamphlet is deficient in not recognizing the characteristic distinctions between the schools of Nancy and Paris, but in his own practical advice and treatment of cases he follows the former. In discussing the causes of the variations in the percentages of hypnotisable persons Dr. Brugelman makes the apt suggestion that the local environment is a most potent factor; in Nancy, for example, there has grown up a generation accustomed to being hypnotised and to regarding it as an every-day process. Hence the percentage is high.